

Region 3 GPRA Baseline RCRA Corrective Action Facility

Dixon Ticonderoga Company

Route 61

Deer Lake, PA 17961

Congressional District 6

EPA ID #: PAD041250242

Latest Update 12/20/2002

Current Progress at the Site

Dixon Ticonderoga (Dixon) has operated a pump and treat system on site since 1988, to remediate contaminated groundwater. Dixon samples and analyzes the groundwater quality on a quarterly basis. In March, 2000, Dixon submitted a proposal for one-year a pilot test to introduce hydrogen release compounds (HRC) into the groundwater to accelerate biodegradation. Groundwater studies indicate that natural biodegradation is occurring on the site. Dixon anticipates that the pilot test results will show that this biodegradation can be efficiently enhanced, with the effect of reducing the size of the volatile organic compound (VOC) plume. EPA and PADEP approved the plan in the spring of 2001. Dixon introduced the hydrogen release compounds in June, 2001 and is monitoring groundwater wells for evidence of enhanced biodegradation. Dixon will submit a final report to EPA and PADEP in the next few months. Preliminary evidence indicates that the HRC pilot test did not have a sustained impact on the VOC concentration. Next steps are being investigated.

Site Description

The Dixon Ticonderoga facility has also been known as Dixon Wearever, Inc. The operations at this facility included the manufacturing and assembling of writing instruments such as pencils, fountain pens, ball point pens, and felt tip markers. Dixon Ticonderoga is the manufacturer of those famous #2 yellow pencils school children have used for years, as well as Wearever pens. The facility was previously owned and operated by David Kahn Inc. (DKI) from 1964 to 1987. Dixon, the present property owner purchased the facility in 1987 and continued to operate until 2000, when the company relocated to Mexico.

The site includes several storage and waste disposal areas. In 1985, pursuant to PADEP's closure requirements, DKI closed two concrete lined evaporation lagoons. All the wastewater and sludge stored in the lagoons was removed and transported to an off-site facility. The lagoons were backfilled and covered with an impermeable liner, covered with soil, graded and seeded.

In December 1988, Dixon implemented the closure plan for the effluent wastewater lagoon, including excavation and backfilling. Closure was certified in 2000, after post excavation

sampling results confirmed that there was no contaminated soil remaining in the lagoon.

As part of the closure, DKI installed a groundwater monitoring system to evaluate impacts to the groundwater. Dixon installed a number of additional wells during closure of the effluent lagoons. Currently the system consists of 2 recovery wells and 9 monitoring wells. VOCs were found in the groundwater at concentrations above acceptable levels. The pump and treat system utilizes 1 primary recovery well and a back-up recovery well connected to a charcoal carbon unit, which strips off the VOCs. The remediated groundwater is then discharged into a surface stream.

Site Responsibility

RCRA Corrective Action activities at the Dixon Ticonderoga facility are being conducted as a joint lead by EPA and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). The investigation and any necessary clean up activities are being implemented in accordance with a federal Corrective Action Order issued on September 29, 1988 and State Closure/Post Closure program requirements.

Contaminants

The primary contaminants of concern are VOCs, including 1,1,1-Trichloroethane (1,1,1-TCA), 1,1-Dichloroethane (1,1-DCA), 1,1-Dichloroethene (1,1-DCE), Trichloroethylene (TCE) and vinyl chloride.

Community Interaction

The public was invited to comment on EPA's proposed remediation plan prior to implementation of the groundwater pump and treat system.

Government Contacts

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For more information about EPA's corrective action webpage, including Environmental Indicators, please visit our site at: www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm